(e) the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, when the net-worth of a coal company becomes negative, the company becomes a sick company. There is no provision regarding any individual mine becoming sick. Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) had a negative net-worth as on 31.3.99 and was referred to BIFR under the aforesaid Act. The BIFR have declared the company as sick. The Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) had also a negative net-worth as on 31.3.2000 and the company has been referred to BIFR under the ACT. These two companies are incurring losses because they have a number of heavily losing mines. In ECL & BCCL most of the loss making mines are located in the State of Jharkhand.

(c) to (e) The Coal India Limited has engaged ICICI to study the problems of ECL and BCCL, the loss- making subsidiaries of CIL, and to make recommendations for their revival. In case of Central Coalfields Limited, another loss making coal company, the EDBI has been engaged to study the problems and make recommendations for its revival. The report of ICICI on ECL has been received, whereas the reports on BCCL and CCL have not so far been received. The ICICI REPORT ON ECL has been examined but no final revival package has so far been formulated.

Replacement of coal mining policy of 1979 with a new one

3488. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to replace the Coal Mining policy of 1979 with a new one;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;

(c) by when the new policy is likely to be announced;

(d) whether the new policy would allow State Government

owned companies to undertake mining of coking and non-colring coal by both underground and open cast methods;

(e) if so, whether replacing of coal mining policy of 1979 would have any impact on expansion and modernisation of various subsidiaries under CIL; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The details of the proposed mining policy have not yet been finalised by the Government. The proposal is under consideration of the Government and it will not be possible to indicate any time limit for a decision in the matter.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The new policy exclusively addresses the issue of coal mining by the State Government undertakings or companies. State Government undertakings or companies will be allowed coal mining only in those areas which are not being operated by Coal India Limited (CIL) and for which 'No objection' certificate will have to be obtained from CIL.

Production .of various categories of coal in NCL

† 3489. SHRI MUNAWAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of various categories of coal in both underground mines and open mines of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) and its subsidiaries during the last three years and as on date;

(b) in what way the said production can be compared to the major coal producing countries;

(c) the percentage of best category of coal out of the total production of coal from both underground mines and open mines;

(d) the subsidiary-wise coal production from both types of mines during the said period; and

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.